

Course Announcement :

How is Your MPA Managed? *A Training in MPA Management Planning*

World Conservation Congress, Pre-conference Training Workshop September 29 – October 4, 2008 Barcelona, Spain

BACKGROUND

A key outcome of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development was the commitment to establish “. . . marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks by 2012”. The challenge of establishing a representative system of marine protected areas (MPAs) is surpassed by the challenge that they are managed effectively over time.

Marine protected areas are established for a wide range of purposes, including protecting marine species and habitats, conserving marine biodiversity, restoring fishery stocks, managing tourism activities and minimizing conflicts between user groups. To achieve these goals, specific and measurable objectives must be defined in terms of outputs and outcomes. This in turn requires that well-defined management plans be developed, measures of MPA success be identified, impacts of management actions be monitored and evaluated, and that results of these activities be fed back into the planning process to revise objectives, plans and outcomes.



NEED FOR GUIDANCE ON MPA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Pervasive throughout the global MPA community, in both developed and developing countries, is a pattern of lack of: defined authority for managing MPAs; clearly articulated goals and objectives; established criteria for prioritizing issues; realistic and effective strategies to address resource management issues; integrated monitoring and evaluation programs; and, adaptive management frameworks.

Experience has shown that many MPAs lack even a basic or generalized strategic or topical management plan. In cases where sites do have plans, clearly articulated goals and specific, measurable objectives often are not present. This may be a result of the fact that many MPA sites lack the capacity for providing a leadership role in management plan development. The *“How is Your MPA Managed?”* guidebook will serve as a companion piece to *“How is Your MPA Doing?”*, and provide a practical,

step-by-step, interactive and participatory process for leading MPA managers and staff, and their community of stakeholders, through the management plan process from site characterization to budgets, timelines and implementation plans. Performance indicators are an integral component of any management plan, however, as a stand-alone, performance indicators serve no practical purpose, and thus, we must build strong and effective management plans around them.

TRAINING WORKSHOP

How is Your MPA Managed? training workshop is designed to bring together MPA managers from 10-15 sites around the world, representing a range of biogeographic, social, political and economic settings, to share the experience of developing a management framework for their sites. The purpose of the training workshop is to test a draft version of the *“How is Your MPA Managed?”* guidebook, both in terms of the planning framework and pedagogical soundness. The training workshop would also provide an opportunity for an internationally-diverse set of MPA staff to share experience and knowledge with one another before attending the Congress. With the knowledge of how to use the draft guidebook, managers would return home with a work plan (implementation contract) to test the draft guidebook and develop an MPA management plan for each of their sites. Submission of review comments on testing and applying the draft guidebook six months later would allow the authors to modify and strengthen the guide prior to publication based on actual field conditions and manager experiences.

Objectives for Training Workshop:

- To work with and get input from 10-15 MPAs that represent a wide range of biogeographic, social, political and economic settings on testing the validity of the methods and process presented in a draft version of IUCN’s guidebook entitled *“How is Your MPA Managed?”*;
- To ensure that each site manager leaves the training with a fluency and comfort in moving forward with the management plan development process;

- To develop on-going support and follow-up program to ensure knowledge and skills gained through the training are implemented at the field level.
- To document lessons learned from reviewing the guidebook during the workshop.
- To encourage the sharing of management planning experiences, knowledge, and skills among participating MPA managers at the workshop.

Training Program Logistics

The *How is Your MPA Managed?* training workshop will be a six-day program, held in Barcelona, Spain, immediately prior to the 2008 IUCN World Conservation Congress. Applicants will be asked to commit to the entire duration of the training program in order to receive maximum benefit. The training program and all material will be presented in English, requiring English proficiency by participants. While the training itself will be offered at no cost to the participants, it is the responsibility of the sponsoring agency to provide funding for travel and lodging. Limited financial assistance may be available.

Training Participants

A number of volunteer MPA test sites will be identified prior to the workshop. From this pool of test sites, this workshop would provide for an intensive, in-residence program for relevant MPA managers, lead staff, key constituents and/or government officials. Participant applicants from these sites would fill out an application form and submit a letter of recommendation from a supervisor stating that they are the appropriate candidate to represent their MPA.

Training Program Structure

The *How is Your MPA Managed?* training workshop is by design primarily participatory, interactive and based on teamwork. Participants will engage in sharing case studies and lessons learned; give presentations; and work together on both group and individual projects and problem solving exercises. All participants will establish a relationship with their "team" of other participants. At the end of the training workshop, the team will design a communication plan to maintain their "social network", and as a support system for implementing their individual implementation contract agreements developed during the training.

The training will be held straight through the six days. Full participation is required as each day a different topical area will be covered. No homework is required, although you will be required to prepare certain documents and presentations before arrival. Evenings and a two-hour lunch break will be left open, although

optional related activities will be offered such as field trips, videos, and discussion groups.

Curriculum

Curriculum for the *How is Your MPA Managed?* Training workshop will be specifically tailored to walk each participant through the guidebook. Training modules will include detailed daily working agendas; a training manual including curriculum, exercises and handouts; and, accompanying powerpoint presentations keyed to the training manual. Case studies will be used to illustrate key points, and to the extent possible, local or regional examples used. Additionally, the training manual is intended to be a field resource for the participants when they return to their respective MPAs, and thus contain more information than is actually covered during the training.

Content for the training will include:

DAY 1: Purpose and need for management planning

DAY 2: Front-end assessment

DAY 3: Moving from assessment to planning

DAY 4: The planning process

DAY 5: From planning to writing

DAY 6: Implementing plans; evaluation and adaptive management

Follow-up Program

The *How is Your MPA Managed?* instructors will maintain communication with each of the pilot sites, as well as provide oversight on their implementation contracts. It is also expected that under the guidance of the communication plan developed by the participants, they will take responsibility for communicating and sharing lessons learned with one another. Additionally, based on pre-established criteria, a select group of sites may have the opportunity to receive direct in-country assistance from the planning team (instructors) to help them implement the skills and knowledge learned during the training workshop.

For more information or to apply for the "How is Your MPA Managed?" training workshop, please contact:

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